



# COLLABORATIVE WORK FOR H2 EXPLORATION IN THE SOUTHERN PROVINCES OF MOROCCO

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## ONHYM : NATURAL HYDROGEN EXPLORATION

q ONHYM : State organization with legal personality, financial autonomy and Governmental control

q Created on 2005 by the merger of :

§ BRPM (1928)

§ ONAREP (1981)

q ONHYM is in charge of research and development of Mines and Hydrocarbons potential of Morocco

q ONHYM launched the renewable energy projects:

o 2012 – geothermal

o 2017 – Natural H<sub>2</sub>

q Moroccan strategy of diversification of energy sources

q ONHYM natural hydrogen projects are particularly promising

q The objectives:

ü Carrying out an assessment of the natural hydrogen potentialities in the Kingdom;

ü Targeting promising areas;

ü Conducting the detailed works on the defined targets

ü Exploiting this resources and participate to energetic mix growth

# HISTORY OF NATURAL H<sub>2</sub> RESEARCH IN MOROCCO



# FIRST ASSESSMENT OF NATURAL H<sub>2</sub> POTENTIAL IN MOROCCO

## 1- Pre-screening

- i) geological settings
- ii) data compilation
- iii) pre-screened areas

## 2- Screening

- iv) satellite & remote sense imagery
- v) GIS
- vi) Selected areas

## 3- Ranking

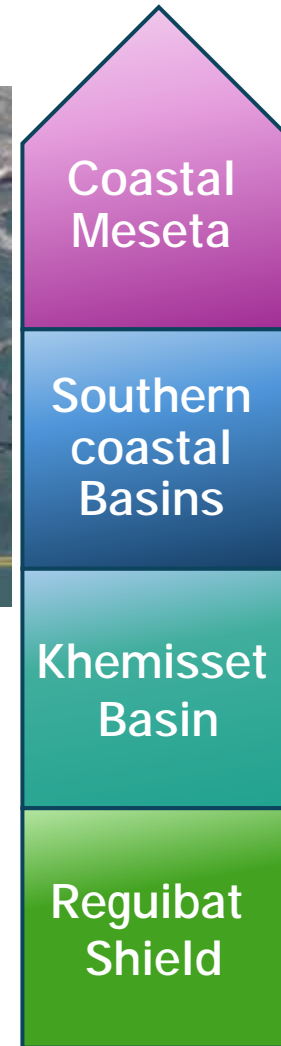
- vii) Ranking qualification



# TARGET RANKING

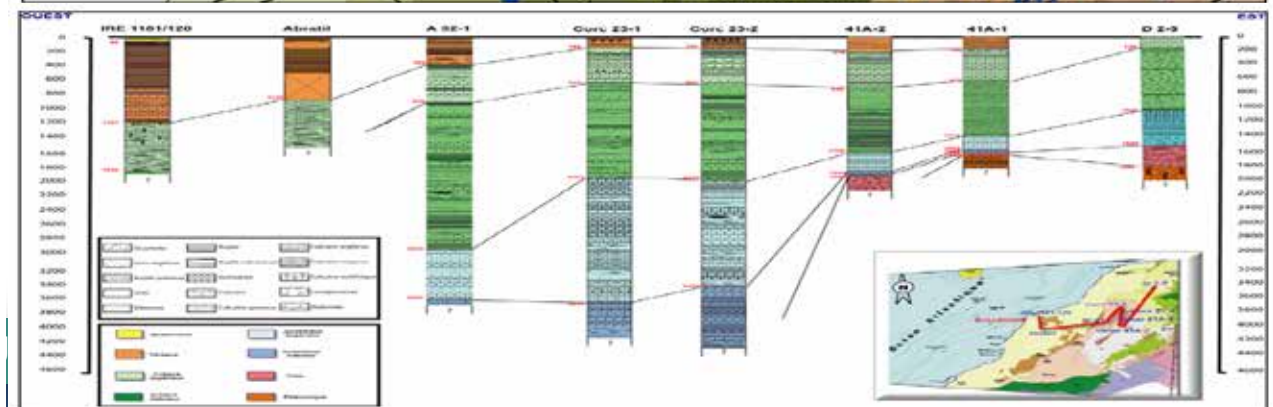
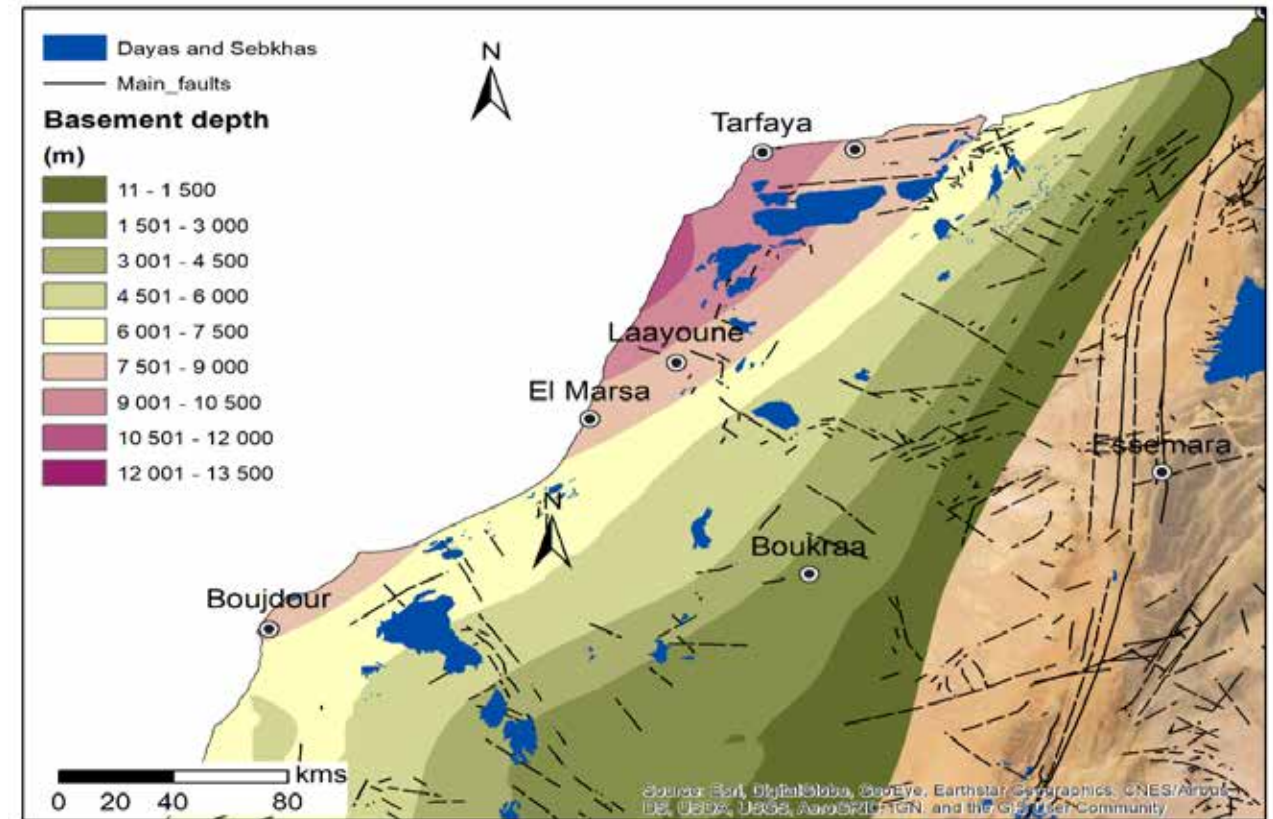


Criteria
Density and size of geomorphic depressions
Land ownership
Anthropogenic activities
Accessibility
Land use
Access to data on local geology
Distance to industrialised areas



- Largest density of geomorphic depressions
  - Accessibility is excellent
  - Many groundwater wells and quarries
  - Proximity Casablanca, Mohammedia ,Rabat
  - Intensive agriculture and human activities
- 
- Large size structures - dayas and sebkhass
  - Several small depressions
  - Accessibility acceptable and no human disturbance.
  - Oil exploration boreholes and groundwater wells
  - Vegetation scarce ,no flooding problems.
  - poorly industrialised.
- 
- Deep boreholes for potash exploration
  - Some geomorphic structures
  - Geologic conditions well known
  - Accessibilities are very good
  - Investments in industrial development
  - Plans for large potash mine is planned
- 
- Several *dayas* and *sebkhass*
  - Human occupation is scarce
  - Aridity of the area
  - Accessibilities are poor
  - Absence of industry

# GEOLOGICAL AND STRUCTURAL CONTROLS



# EQUIPEMENTS



Portable Hydrogen Analyzer



Drill and Probe



terra Spec halo Spectroradiometer



XRF Analyser



Gamma ray

# SOIL GAS MEASUREMENTS

Sample	He (ppm)	H <sub>2</sub> (ppm)	O <sub>2</sub> (%)	N <sub>2</sub> (%)	CH <sub>4</sub> (ppm)	CO (ppm)	CO <sub>2</sub> (%)
Camp, 20m	5	226	20.52	77.96	3.9	12	0.12
Gara, 2500	3.9	7363	19.3	79.36	234	36	0.34

Elongated from North to South and is approximately 17 x 6 km in size, west from Daoura.

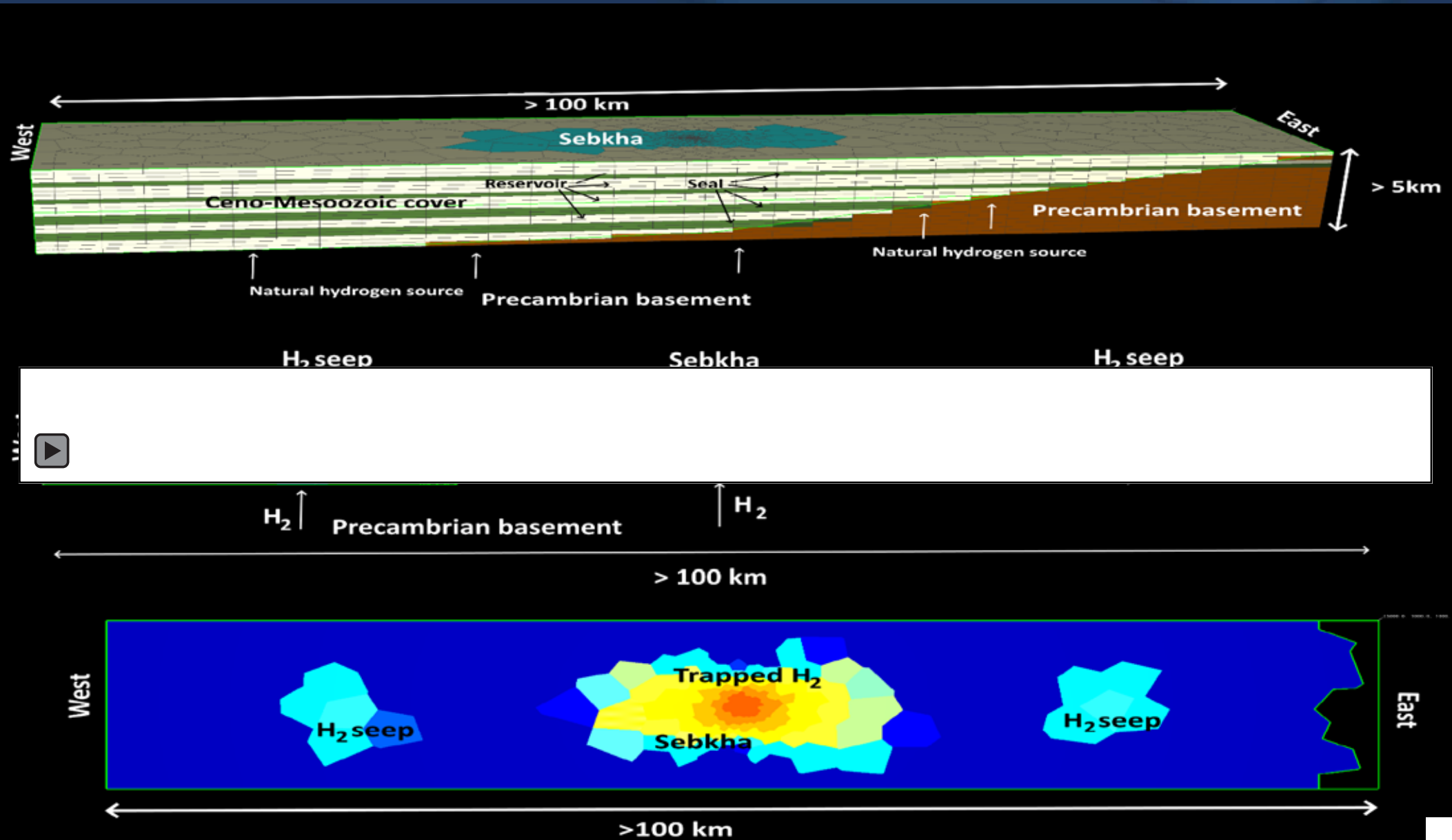
Three measurement locations

- 1) near a camping site- three locations (H<sub>2</sub> from 10 ppm to 181 ppm)
- 2) along a transect NW to SE and around Gara Mount (H<sub>2</sub> one location 17719 ppm,  $\delta D$  is -778 +/-5)
- 3) around a hill inside the sebkha (no H<sub>2</sub>)

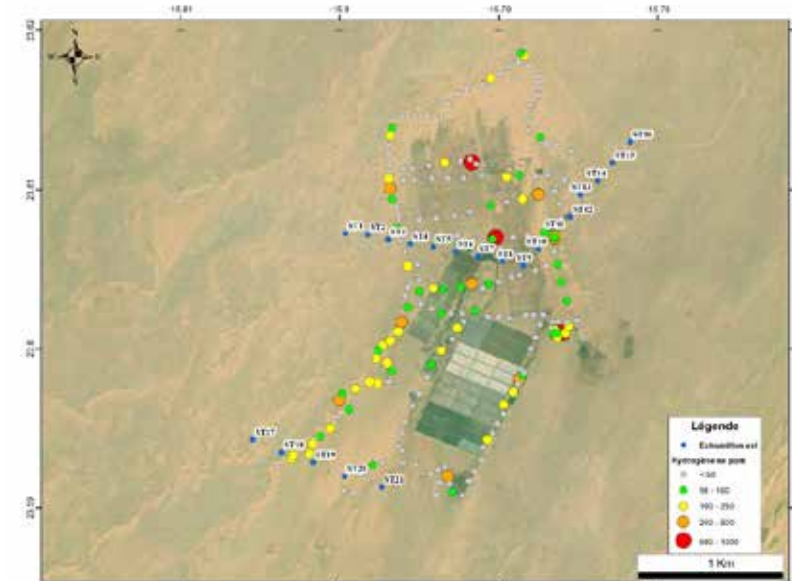
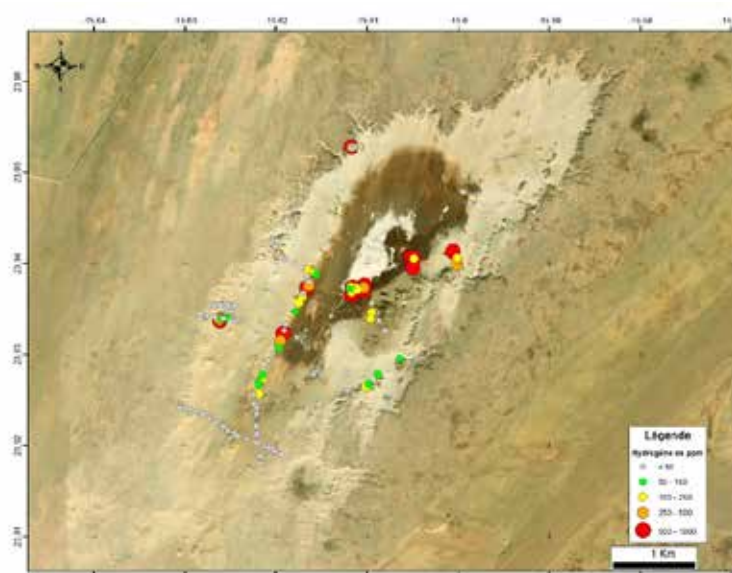




# CONCEPTUAL MODEL – TARFAYA AREA

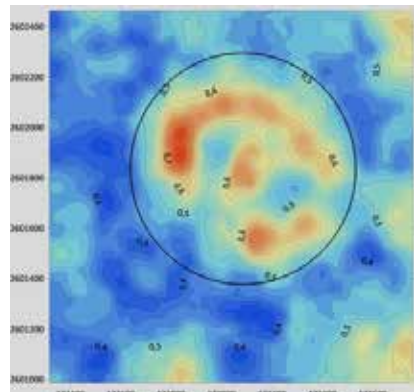


# SOIL GAS MESEUREMENTS

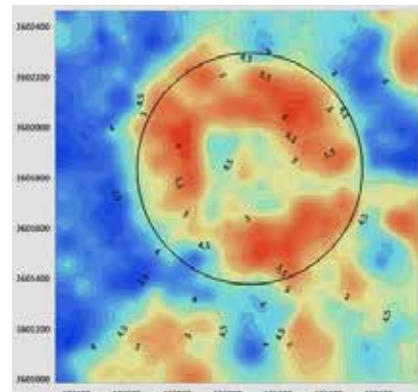


- Majority of inventoried structures show natural Hydrogen seepage.
- The flow rate of the free gas is sometimes very important exceeding 0.1%.V (saturation value of GA5000)

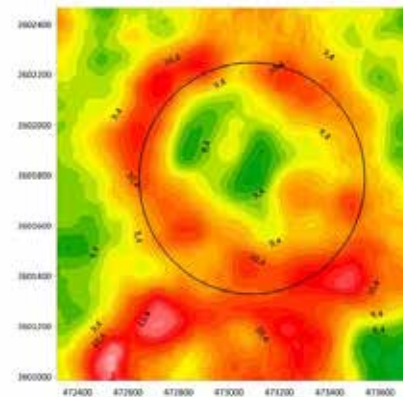
# GAMMA RAY SPECTROMETRY



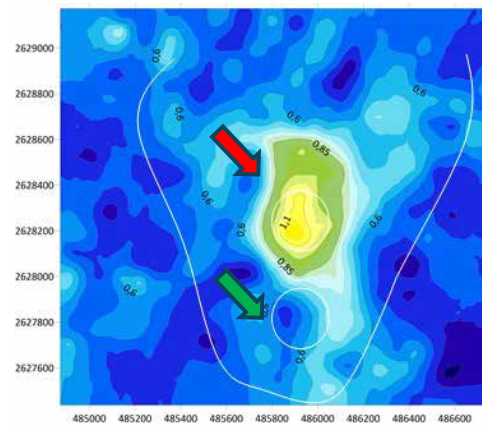
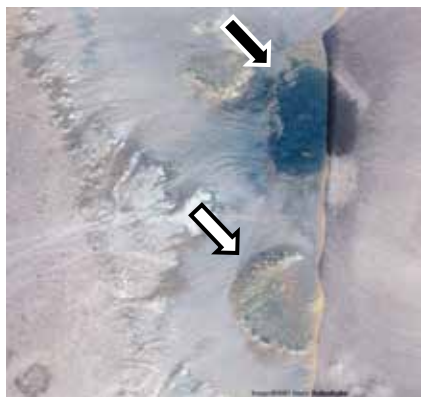
K max/min = 4,2



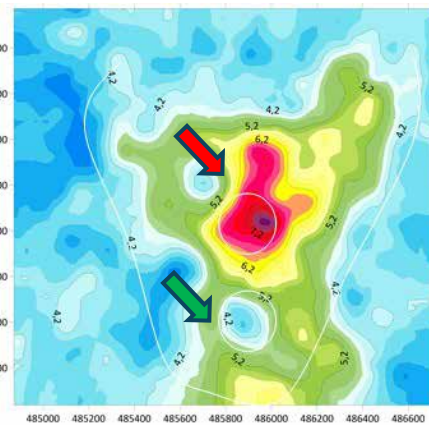
Th max/min = 3,7



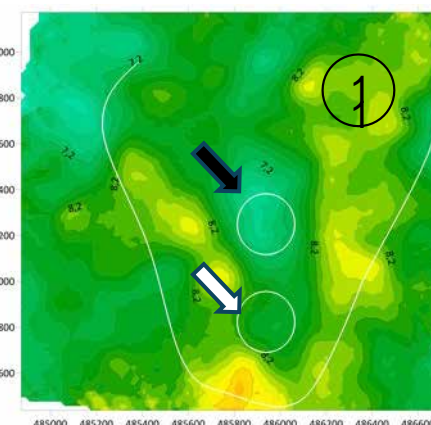
Th/k max/min = 4, 2



K max/min = 6,0

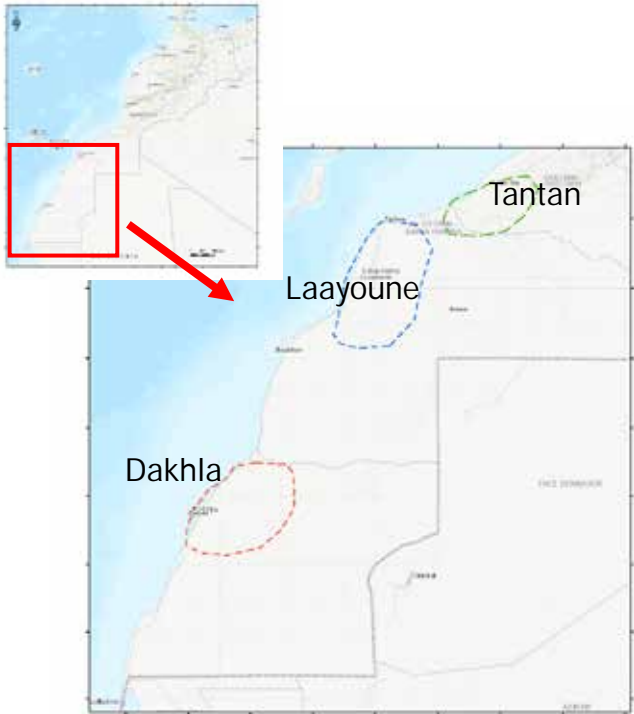


Th max/min = 4,5

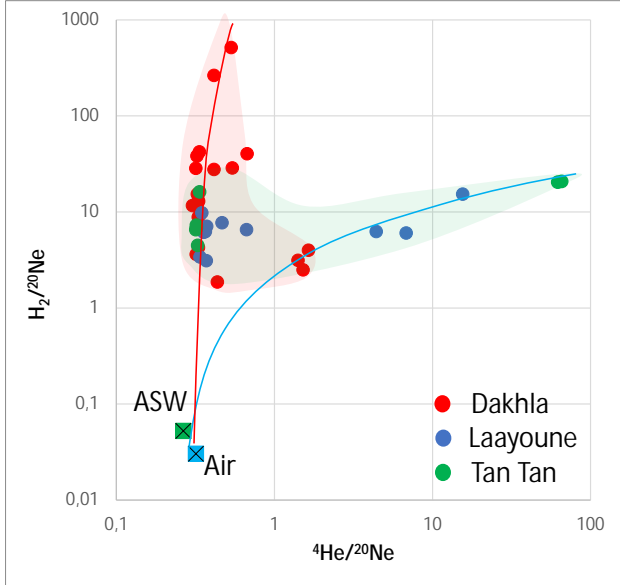
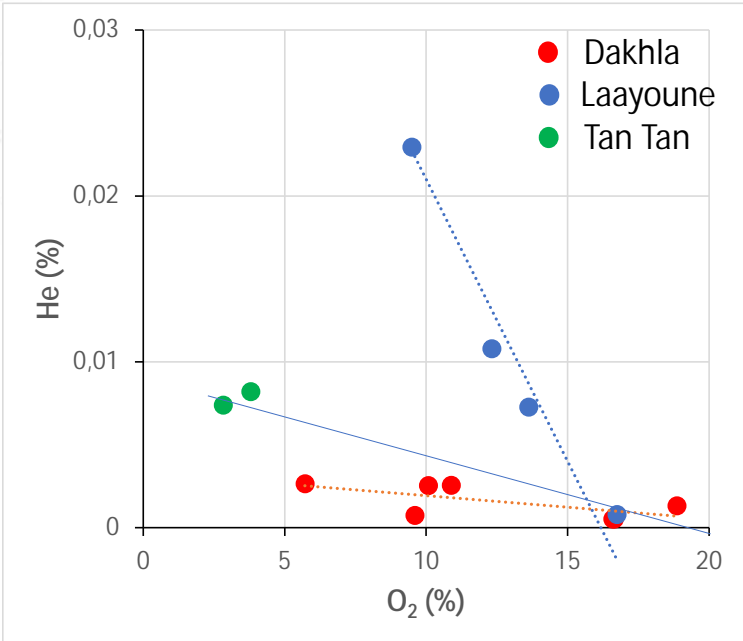


Th/k max/min = 5,3

# CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

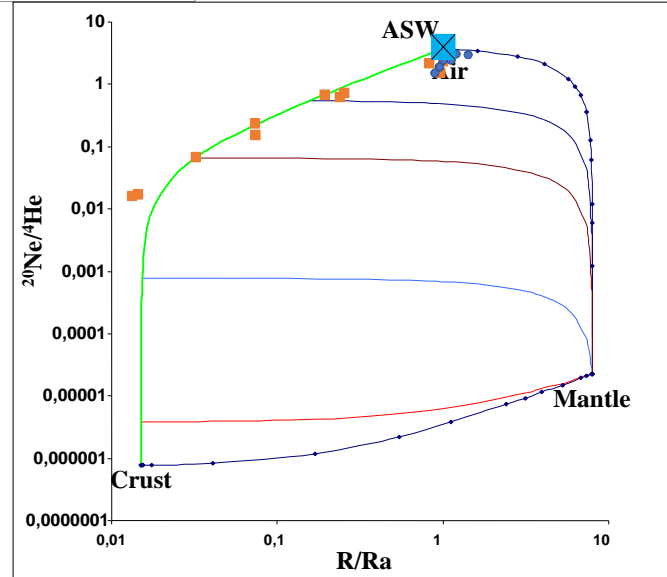


Helium and oxygen measurements

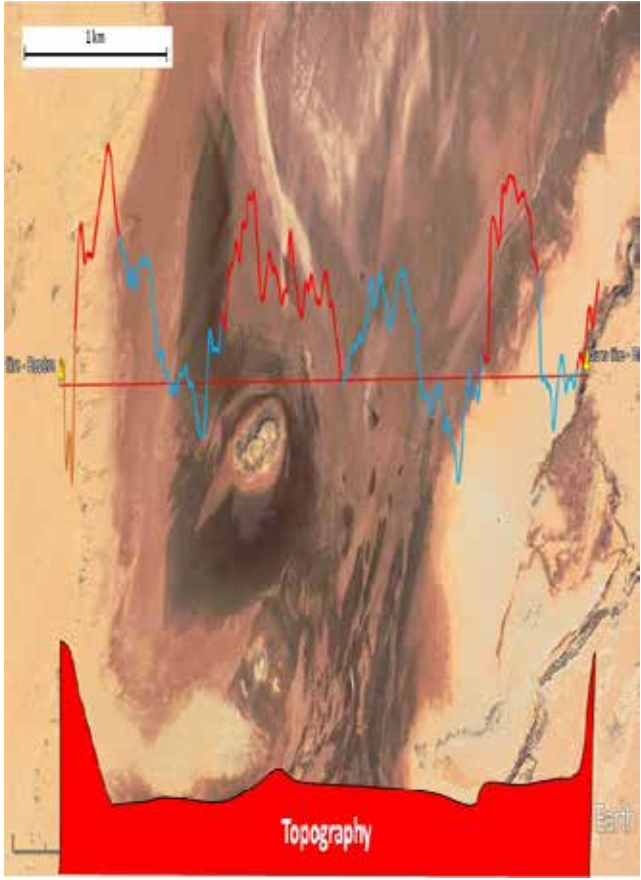
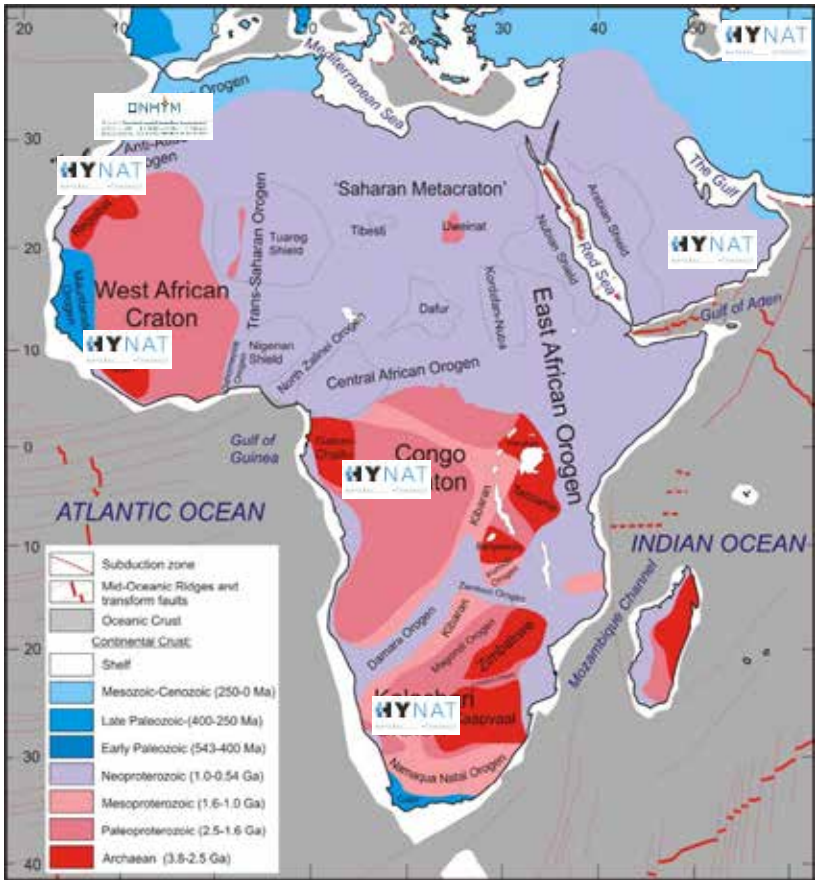


Helium and hydrogen concentrations

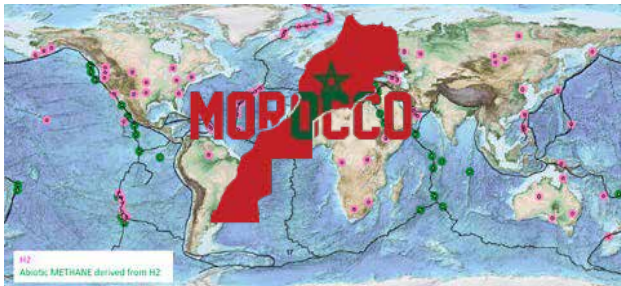
Noble gases isotopes



# NATURAL HYDROGEN EXPLORATION IN THE SOUTH OF MOROCCO

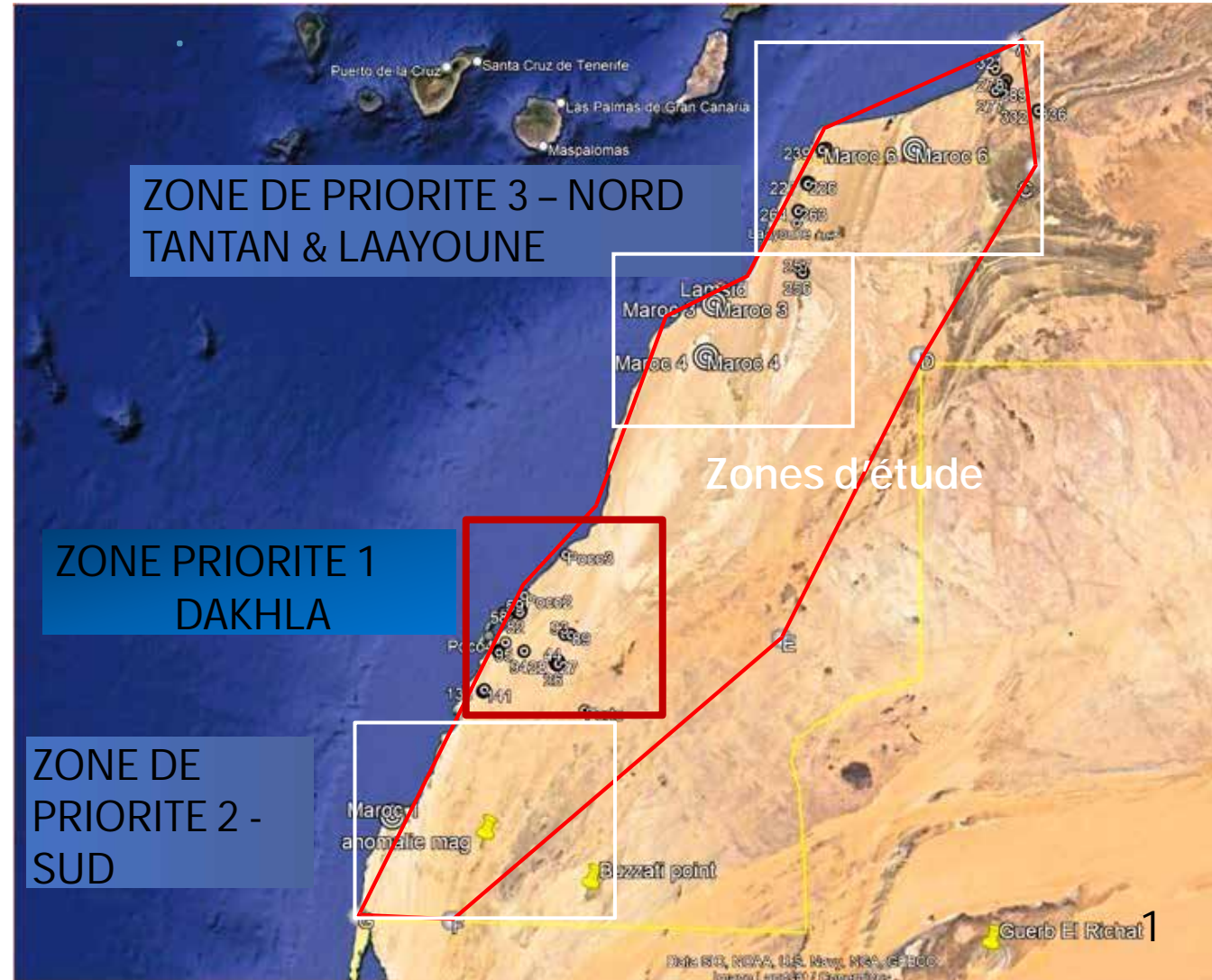


# MOROCCAN CONTEXT

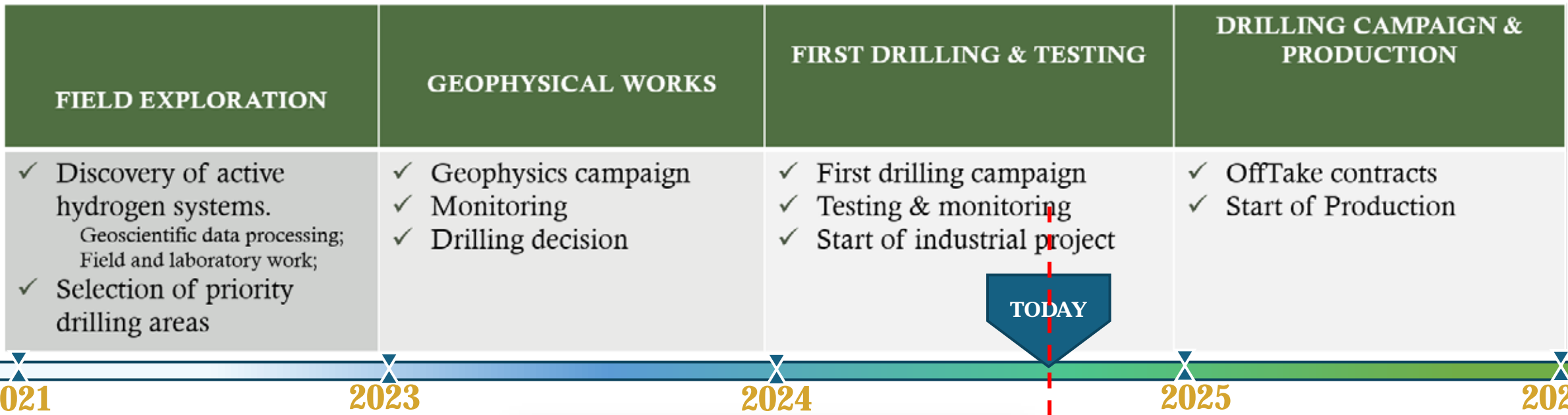
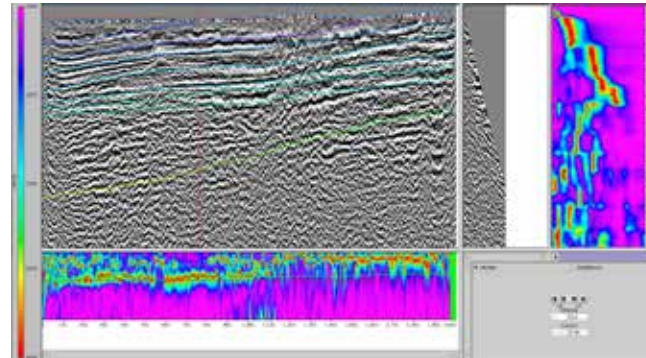


Areas where H2 presence in subsurface has been already proven (from Prinzhofer et Devilleand Moretti)

- ONHYM puts natural hydrogen as a new lever at the heart of Morocco's the energy transition strategy and also to contribute to the energetic MIX.
- In 2021, ONHYM and HYNAT signed exclusive contract in order to develop the natural H2 potential in the southern Provinces of Morocco

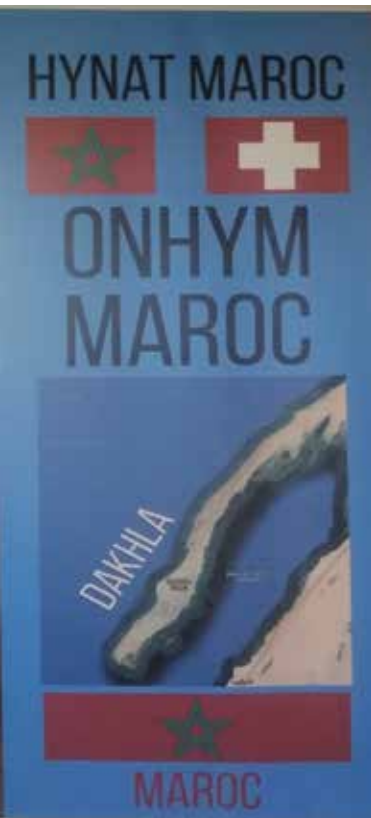


# THE PROGRAM IN MOROCCO



**HYNAT Maroc SA**  
a joint operating company with ONHYM in charge of exploiting natural hydrogen deposits in Morocco's southern provinces.

**THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR ATTENTION**



- § Responding to the Royal Hydrogen Strategy.
- § 93 wells by 2028.
- § 100 to 2,000 meters deep.
- § Productivity modeling exceeds expectations.
- § Attractive and profitable volumes for Offtakers.
- § Upgrading of rare gases (He,...) and carbon credits.

# Natural Hydrogen in 2028





